

Clean Version of the Claims As Amended

1. (Once Amended) A process for making glass nail files, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a substrate comprising a glass-like material and having a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) chemically etching at least a portion of one of said surfaces to create a rough finish on said surface; and

(c) hardening said substrate to increase the rigidity and durability of said elongated substrate.

2. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of facilitating hardening comprises:

thermally treating said elongated substrate at at least one predetermined temperature.

3. (Original) A process as recited in claim 2, wherein said step of thermally treating comprises:

heating said substrate at a first temperature and then cooling said substrate at a second temperature.

4. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of chemically etching comprises:

soaking said substrate in a solution that facilitates an ionic exchange of ions contained in said glass material with ions released by said solution.

5. (Original) A process as recited in claim 4, wherein said solution comprises dissolved salts that facilitate an ionic exchange of ions contained in said glass material with ions released by said solution.

6. (Original) A process as recited in claim 4, wherein said solution comprises potassium.

7. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said solution comprises hydrofluoric acid and facilitates an ionic exchange of ions contained in said glass material with ions released by said solution.

8. (Once Amended) A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said rough finish on said surfaces comprises a substantially uniformly rough finish devoid of sharp edges so as to define a relatively soft grinding surface.

9. (Original) A process as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of:
protecting said substrate from said solution in at least one section where a grinding surface is undesirable.

10. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
forming an elongated substrate comprising said glass material.
11. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
forming a handle from said substrate.
12. (Original) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein said handle forming step
comprises:
protecting at least one predetermined section of said substrate in a manner that
isolates said section from said step of chemically etching.
13. (Original) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein said handle forming step
comprises:
affixing a rigid sleeve extension to one end of said substrate so as to cover at least a
portion of said end.
14. (Original) A process as recited in claim 13, wherein said handle forming step further
comprises:
providing a removable sleeve that mates with said sleeve extension to substantially
conceal said substrate above said sleeve extension.

15. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
providing a sleeve for removably inserting said substrate to protect said substrate
during periods of non-use.

16. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
forming a pictorial indicia on said substrate.

17. (Original) A process as recited in claim 16, wherein said step of forming a pictorial
indicia comprises:
sand blasting said substrate to form said indicia on said substrate.

18. (Original) A process as recited in claim 16, wherein said step of forming a pictorial
indicia comprises:
engraving said substrate to form said indicia on said substrate.

19. (Original) A process as recited in claim 16, wherein said step of forming a pictorial
indicia comprises:
imprinting said substrate with said indicia to form said indicia on said substrate.

20. (Original) A process as recited in claim 16, wherein said step of forming a pictorial
indicia comprises:

grinding said substrate to form said indicia on said substrate.

21. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
providing at least one color in said substrate.

22. (Original) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
forming a reflective surface on at least one of said surfaces.

23. (Canceled) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
forming a reflective surface on at least one of said surfaces.

24. (Once Amended) A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising forming a
reflective surface on at least one of said surfaces comprising applying a reflective varnish to said
surface.

25. (Once Amended) A glass nail file for filing human and domestic animal nails, said
nail file comprising:

an elongated substrate comprising a glass-like material, said substrate having a first
surface, a second surface opposite said first surface, a first end, a second end and a predetermined
thickness defined between said first and second surface; and

a grinding surface defined on and by at least a portion of at least one of said surfaces,

Applicant: Ing. Jan Turina
Serial No: 10/010,090
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said grinding surface defining a rough finish devoid of sharp edges.

26. A nail file as recited in claim 25, wherein said grinding surface[s] is formed by chemically etching said surface in a solution that facilitates an ionic exchange of ions contained in said glass material with ions released by said solution.